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# Mikoyan Is a Symbol Of Red Trade Drive

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**T**HERE MAY BE some mystery about the inner purpose of Anastas Ivanovich Mikoyan's unexplained mission to the United States. Most of the dopesters are convinced that he is coming here for some hard trading on the Berlin crisis, or perhaps to sound out the chances of credits to finance expanded trade with the United States—or perhaps a bit of both.

But there is little mystery about the career, the talents or the major pre-occupation of this First Deputy-Premier of the Soviet Union, who arrives here this week as the ostensible guest of Soviet Ambassador Menshikov. One of the two or three most powerful men in the Soviet hierarchy, Mikoyan is the Kremlin's chief of staff on the world economic front. And he came to the job with a trunkful of valid credentials.

## Studied for Priesthood

**B**ORN IN Tiflis in 1895 in an Armenian worker's family, Mikoyan studied for several years for the priesthood. By 1918, however, he had joined the Communist Party and was arrested by British forces and banished from Tiflis for revolutionary activity. He was later released, and from that moment he began a sure-footed climb through the ranks of the Communist Party.

After eight years of party jobs in Tiflis and at Rostov-on-Don, Mikoyan was called to Moscow in 1925 and made Peoples' Commissar for Foreign and Domestic Trade. After four years he was moved to Commissar of Procurements and later Commissar for the Food Industry, then in 1938 he returned to the top job in foreign trade.

During the war, Mikoyan was a member of the State Defense Committee—an inner cabinet group—and after the war served on an elite committee to supervise reconstruction of Russia's war-battered areas. But despite changes of title and extra assignments, the fact is that for the past 24 years Mikoyan has been boss of Soviet foreign trade, an experience which qualifies him for his present post of head strategist of the Soviet's growing aid-trade program—and as its principal tactician and technician to boot.

## 40 Years Up Top

**A** HERO of Socialist Labor, a member of the Order of the Red Banner and a holder of two Orders of

Lenin, Mikoyan has turned out to be the most durable of all the old Bolsheviks. For nearly 40 years he has been a member of the All-Russian Executive Committee and its successor, the All-Union Executive Committee; for 23 years he has been a full member of the Politburo.

Over four decades, Mikoyan has survived every power hassle within the party and landed on his feet beside the winner. Today he works in the same Kremlin office he occupied when Stalin died.

But when Mikoyan was upped to the job of Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers early last year, it was more than a personal reward for work well done. It verified the emergence of the Soviet Union from a cocoon of economic isolation.

For the previous four or five years, the U.S.S.R. had been moving out into the world to compete with the West on the West's own grounds: world commerce and economic development. With Mikoyan's elevation, this thrust into world economics also was elevated to a central position in overall Soviet strategy.

## Aimed at Have-Nots

**T**HE GROWING Communist economic offensive in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America has been described by Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, as the "most dangerous threat of all to the security of the United States."

If Mikoyan's campaign can be called an "offensive," his weapons are trade agreements, barter deals, aid credits, spot commodity purchases and elaborate sales in world markets. His major targets are the impoverished nations hungry for capital or bedeviled by over-crop surpluses unsalable in world markets.

The aid-trade program masterminded by Mikoyan is based on two major techniques:

- **AID CREDITS.** In the past four years, the Sino-Soviet bloc has extended about \$2.5 billion worth of long-term, low-interest development loans to outside nations. About 75 per cent was for economic development and the remainder for military aid, mostly to Egypt and Syria.

- **Barter.** About 80 per cent of the aid to neutralist countries is in the form of barter.